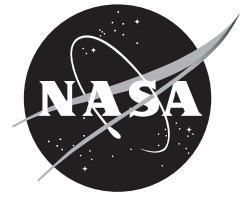


NASA Facts

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

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Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

Strengthening Opportunities for American's Small, Small Disadvantaged, and Women-Owned Firms

NASA develops programs/initiatives to ensure that small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned business firms have the maximum opportunity to assist the Agency in performing its mission. The Agency's primary objective in utilizing such businesses is to receive better quality products or services at the lowest practicable cost and under safe conditions. NASA helps strengthen America's economic growth through the use of entrepreneurial endeavors in small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses, which can often provide value-added services not readily available from large corporations. This includes utilizing such businesses for the transfer of NASA technologies for commercial use. NASA also works with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other minority educational institutions to assist the Agency in performing its technical and research programs.

Recent Accomplishments In Fiscal Year (FY) 1999

- On an annual basis, NASA awards about \$3.2 billion to small businesses of a contract budget of \$11 billion.
- NASA has awarded a higher percentage of its subcontracting dollars to minority-owned firms and women-owned firms than any other Federal agency. It is ranked number two among Federal agencies for the percentage of subcontracting dollars awarded to all small business
- More than 28 percent of NASA's total contracting dollars are with small businesses.
- NASA has achieved 16.1 percent of its contracted prime and subcontracted business to small disadvantaged business including women-owned businesses and minority educational institutions. This is the highest percent ever achieved by NASA, exceeding the congressional mandated goal of 8 percent for the seventh year in a row.
- NASA has awarded \$1.76 billion to small disadvantaged and women-owned businesses. This is the highest dollar amount ever awarded by NASA.
- NASA has awarded more than \$1.3 billion to small disadvantaged businesses and \$517 million to women-owned businesses. In FY 1999, NASA's total contract dollars to women-owned businesses was triple that of 1991.
- In FY 1999, over \$351 million were awarded to "8(a)" businesses certified as socially and economically disadvantaged by the Small Business Administration. The amount represents a \$120 million increase over 1992.
- More than \$686 million were awarded in subcontracts to small disadvantaged businesses in FY 1999, more than double the number in FY 1992
- NASA has established "forums" at which small, minority, and women-owned firms can market their capabilities to NASA technical managers.
- NASA implemented a mentor-protégé program to increase the technical capability of small disadvantaged businesses.
- NASA formed a roundtable of its prime contractors to recommend methods/processes in increase contracting opportunities for small and small disadvantaged businesses.
- NASA is continuing its efforts to increase small business involvement in technology transfer to the commercial marketplace. In FY 1998 the NASA Administrator received the "Federal Leadership Award" for such efforts.
- NASA has a Minority Business Resource Advisory Committee to assist the Agency in fully integrating small disadvantaged businesses into NASA high-tech contracting opportunities.

- The NASA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization has been cited by President Clinton, numerous members of Congress, industry trade associations, other Federal agencies, and international bodies for its accomplishments on behalf of small, minority, and women-owned businesses.
- NASA has conducted ISO 9000 Seminars since 1996 to assist small businesses in getting compliant and/or registered under this international quality system.
- The NASA Administrator was awarded The U.S. Department of Commerce's "Parren J. Mitchell Pioneer Award" for his stellar performance in getting minority businesses involved in space and aeronautics contracts. He is the only person, other than Former Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, the "Father of Minority Business Enterprise" to win the award.
- The NASA Associate Administrator of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization traveled to Bombay, India, to receive the "Special Honor Award" from the World Association of Small and Medium Enterprises. It is the highest international honor for innovation, commitment, initiative and leadership in small business advocacy.
- Small, minority, and women-owned businesses have had significant contract participation in some of NASA's most critical missions, including the International Space Station, Mars Pathfinder, Hyper-X, Lunar Prospector, and the launch and mission of STS-95.
- More than two-thirds of NASA's direct contract dollars go to small disadvantaged businesses that are in high-technology areas.
- The Native Women's Business Council named NASA one of 11 private public entities in the United States having the "Best Practices" for increasing contract opportunities for women-owned businesses.
- The NASA Advisory Council, the most senior external advisory body to the Administrator, gave NASA's Small Business Program its highest rating in assessing all of NASA's programs. Small business was one of only two NASA programs to receive such rating.
- The NASA Associate Administrator for Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization won the "Ronald H. Brown Award for Government Excellence" at the First Annual Awards dinner of the National Coalition of Minority Businesses, an affair at which President Bill Clinton was the keynote speaker.